About OCE... What we do

A leader in innovation in Ontario, Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) works with industry and academia to commercialize research that creates new technologies, products, and services while generating new jobs and businesses. A champion of breakthrough research and disruptive technologies, OCE invests in collaborative commercialization and youth entrepreneurship projects in areas of the economy that are driving Ontario’s prosperity and global competitiveness: advanced health technologies, advanced manufacturing, energy and environment, and ICT and digital media.

OCE’s programs focus on helping companies tap into leading-edge research conducted at our universities, colleges and research institutes, supporting the development of a world-class knowledge transfer system and training the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

A not-for-profit organization, OCE receives operations and program funding from the Ontario government as well as the federal government. We are a proud member of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE) and a key partner with the province in delivering Ontario’s Innovation Agenda.

VISION
Prosperity from Innovation – an Ontario where bright minds connect to create prosperity

MISSION
Accelerating innovation through game-changing research leading to successful commercialization and vibrant collaboration between industry and academia, launching the next generation of products and jobs.

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Who We Serve

ONTARIO-BASED:
- Start-up companies
- Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large companies
- Entrepreneurs, principal investigators and students from colleges, universities and research hospitals
- Technology transfer and industry liaison offices
- Regional Innovation Centres (RICs) and Sector Innovation Centres (SICs)

The OCE Story

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

For nearly 30 years, Ontario Centres of Excellence has played a key role as a catalyst in advancing Ontario’s economic transformation. Over the past three decades, Ontario and Canada have seen their traditional economic foundations shift from commodities-based, North American-focused economies to those that are global, outward looking and knowledge-based.

Prior to the creation of OCE, collaboration between industry and the province’s academic institutions (universities, colleges and research hospitals) was limited. There was a noticeable disconnect between the quality and quantity of research being produced and the level of commercialization resulting from it.

That’s where OCE comes in. Our role is to bridge that gap and create productive working partnerships between Ontario’s industry and academia.

Today, OCE drives the commercialization of cutting-edge research across strategic market sectors to build the economy of tomorrow and secure Ontario’s and Canada’s global competitiveness. We concentrate on areas that will deliver the greatest social and economic benefits through more and better jobs across the province.

We are now significantly increasing our focus on youth entrepreneurship as a means of fostering Ontario’s culture of entrepreneurship and developing the next generation of business leaders.

Through our flexible suite of programs, we are a catalyst for innovative business development helping companies grow and achieve sustainable commercial success and global competitiveness.
A Year of Transition and Growth

A discussion between Ontario Centres of Excellence Board of Directors Chair Michael Nobrega and CEO Dr. Tom Corr

How would you characterize the OCE experience last year?

Tom – It has been an exciting year of transition in working with the Ontario government to help them realize their goals. The provincial announcement of more than $295 million in youth employment programs in the 2013 budget led to many new programs that are now being managed by OCE. And we have seen significant growth overall. There will be a thousand funding applications reviewed this year – almost triple that of last year. This has been a year of establishing and launching programs and working out the details. Next year, we will begin to see the results in terms of job creation and follow-on investment.

Michael – This growth in new programs launched by OCE is very positive. It signals that OCE is getting really good traction in the marketplace with both entrepreneurs and funders such as government and industry. It also confirms that OCE is demonstrating that we have developed a sustainable business model. This is seen in the number and range of programs we are now able to offer as a result of government and industry support.

What do you especially want our stakeholders to know about what we achieved in 2013/14?

Tom – I’m very excited about some initiatives we’ve recently become involved in such as the launching of the Campus-Linked Accelerator program, which has evolved from a pilot to a full program; TalentEdge to provide Ontario students and recent graduates with internship and fellowship opportunities; the growth of the Collaboration Voucher Program; and our partnerships in the oneleven and Venus Cybersecurity incubators. We’re finding more opportunities to partner with industry to advance various sector-specific initiatives. This is another way for us to support areas that are synergistic with our traditional mandate in funding industry-academic collaboration.

Michael – We’ve evolved into a very efficient and effective delivery business. This can be seen in our drop in program delivery costs as a percentage of our total funding deployed, as well as in terms of the growth of our funding portfolio. This shows that we are becoming more productive as our programs scale and grow. We’ve built confidence and trust amongst our provincial and federal government, and industry funders to roll out programs in an accountable, transparent and efficient manner.

Also, OCE has entered a new phase in establishing significant relationships and partnerships with major organizations like OMERS and IBM. This is important as these arrangements help us build the profile and credibility we need to have the greatest possible impact. These are the kind of players that only come to the table when you can demonstrate tangible results.

Is OCE evolving in a particular direction?

Tom – We continue to move toward a whole-of-government approach wherever possible. To avoid duplicating efforts, we have been successful in bringing different levels of government together to deliver common programs for them. We work with government organizations on initiatives that are important to them such as youth entrepreneurship. We are also becoming an even closer partner with industry. Through our Collaboration Voucher Program, we are able to work with industry to deal with bigger challenges to advance innovation in provincial priority sectors.

Michael – We have become a real connector amongst the various players in the marketplace. And in building a whole-of-government approach, OCE has access to program funding that allows us to have a much greater impact in creating economic growth.

Tom – And we are building solid relationships with industry and, as a result, are able to bring significant amounts of funding to the table that wouldn’t otherwise be available to the province to address their priority areas.

Michael – A big winner in all this is the youth of the province, who are getting a chance to develop their talents and skills. We are supporting companies that are creating jobs which generate taxes for the province. And that is a good deal for taxpayers.
What do you believe is the secret of OCE’s success?

Michael – We have matured as an organization and are evolving and demonstrating our strengths...deal by deal...and having the moxie to secure the whole-of-government initiative and to establish the relationships with significant industry partners. There is definitely a sense of momentum.

What are the biggest challenges we face?

Tom – We must continue to increase our efficiency as an organization so that the cost per dollar of successful program delivery is as low as possible. We also have to make sure that we deploy our funding where we will get the best results. That means choosing the right projects and the right partners.

Michael – There is no question that we’re going to be challenged when it comes to continuing to attract top talent. We simply can’t execute programs without the right kind of talent. OCE has developed an aggressive human resources strategy to enable the organization to compete in the employment market for the best people. We recognize the critical role staff play in ensuring OCE meets its ambitious goals. OCE is predominantly driven by the relationships, knowledge and skills of its staff.

Tom – We’re not just out to fund projects. We want to fund the right projects. That can only happen by having highly skilled people on staff who can ask the right questions, make the right decisions, and bring the right proposals forward to our external College of Reviewers.

What are you most proud of about the work done by OCE last year?

Tom – We have had some real success in building relationships with other provinces, most notably Alberta and Quebec. We are leveraging industry, academia and innovation intermediaries such as CQDM and Alberta Innovates Technology Futures and, through our collaborations, avoiding duplication of research. This is good for the taxpayers of Canada and the individual provinces. It’s not easy to get researchers and industry in different provinces to work together but there are huge benefits to this whole-of-government pan-Canadian approach.

Michael – We must continue to play a role in helping Ontario increase its global competitiveness. Every year at Discovery we have been increasing the number of international investors and partners who attend and see our innovative Ontario technologies – one way we are able to give our companies a window on the world. We are also beginning to build more partnerships in other countries, including with China’s HanHai ZhiYe Investment Management Group and the Korea Evaluation Institute of Industrial Technology, as a way to help Ontario companies access
OCE offers a comprehensive suite of programs designed to commercialize innovations that help create jobs, drive prosperity and equip the next generation of entrepreneurs to continue to build a globally competitive, knowledge-based economy for Ontario.

**OUR PROGRAM SUITE COVERS THREE KEY AREAS**

1. **Industry-Academic Collaboration** programs align institutional research capacity with industry demand, leveraging academic expertise to solve innovation and productivity challenges.

2. **Entrepreneurship** programs provide seed financing and business support, improving the levels of success among young entrepreneurs.

3. **Commercialization** programs help move innovative technologies from the lab into the global marketplace, accelerating time to market.

"Building new regional, provincial, federal and private-sector partnerships is intrinsic to OCE’s way of doing business. It’s by working collaboratively with others that we are able to leverage resources, tap into unprecedented opportunities and achieve the greatest impact in advancing innovation and commercialization for Ontario."

– Dr. Claudia Krywiak, OCE’s Vice President, Corporate Development, Planning and Strategic Initiatives
**Program Offerings**

**INDUSTRY-ACADEMIC R&D COLLABORATION**
- Collaboration Voucher Program
  - Voucher for Industry Association R&D Challenge (VIA)
  - Voucher for Innovation and Productivity (VIP I & VIP II)
  - Voucher for E-Business (VEB)
- Alberta-Ontario Innovation Program
- Connected Vehicle/Autonomous Vehicle (CVAV) Research Program for Road Vehicles
- TalentEdge*
  - Internships
  - Fellowships
- Explore*
  *Explore Program in partnership with CQDM

Brings industry and academia together to solve industry’s innovation challenges

**COMMERCIALIZATION**
- Market Readiness Program
  - Customer Creation
  - Company Building
- AdvancingHealth Program*

Takes research from labs to the marketplace

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities*
- Campus-Linked Accelerators*
- SmartStart Seed Fund*
- Entrepreneurship Fellowships
  - Martin Walmsley Fellowships
  - David McFadden Energy Entrepreneur Challenge
- High School Competition
  - Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch

Supports entrepreneurial activities by students and youth across Ontario

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**
- High Performance Computing
- Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII)
- oneeleven*
- Venus Cybersecurity*

Undertakes strategic initiatives designed to advance innovation and create a competitive edge for Ontario companies

* New OCE programs
Our Partners in Innovation

Interprovincial Collaborations

ONTARIO-QUEBEC

R&D Challenge

OCE and Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) issued an R&D Challenge in the biopharmaceutical sector to support industry-academic collaborations across the Ontario-Québec Life Sciences Corridor. The initiative seeks to promote the development of innovative tools and technologies to accelerate the drug discovery process. This led to a groundbreaking collaboration between Toronto biotechnology company Treventis, St. Michael’s Hospital, and the University of Montreal to confirm the role of certain compounds that are believed to play a part in diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and diabetes.

Supporting unconventional, disruptive research in drug discovery

Through an expansion of the OCE and CQDM partnership, Ontario’s scientific community is gaining access to CQDM’s unique Explore Program. The program funds early concept validation of cutting-edge technologies, computational tools, novel approaches, techniques and devices that address the most crucial needs in drug discovery and development.

ONTARIO-ALBERTA

Jointly announced this spring by the Ontario and Alberta governments, Ontario Centres of Excellence is partnering with Alberta Innovates Technology Futures to boost innovation and job creation in the two provinces. The two-year program will fund projects that focus on strengthening global competitiveness and draw on academic expertise to address challenges faced by industry. Ontario and Alberta are providing up to $4 million to the program to be matched with up to $4 million by industry partners in both provinces. Additional matching funds of up to $4 million are available through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

International Collaborations

ONTARIO-CHINA

OCE has entered into an agreement with China’s HanHai ZhiYe Investment Management Group. This partnership builds on Sino-Canadian business relations by creating new opportunities for scientific collaboration, knowledge sharing, access to emerging markets and co-investment opportunities in Ontario companies. OCE and HanHai will work toward establishing a China-Canada enterprise innovation centre, including a Sino-Canadian scientific and innovation collaboration and exchange platform that will enable HanHai and OCE to develop an Ontario-China network of entrepreneurs and investors. The collaboration is supported by Ontario’s Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Research and Innovation, China’s Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Embassy, the Chinese Consulate General in Toronto and Beijing Municipal Government.

ONTARIO-SOUTH KOREA

Through a new partnership with the Korea Evaluation Institute of Industrial Technology, OCE is working with the Institute to identify avenues for joint projects of mutual benefit. This includes connecting respective university researchers, industry partners and other collaborators in Ontario and South Korea, and facilitating R&D and commercialization projects.
Our Partners in Innovation

A proud member of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE), OCE is an integral part of Ontario’s innovation ecosystem and continues to expand its powerful network of partnerships with government, industry, academia, investors and other key innovation players.

**Ontario’s Universities, Colleges & Research Hospitals**
- Campus-Linked Accelerators
- On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities

**Ontario Centres of Excellence**
- Alberta Innovates Technology Futures
- Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation
- IBM
- Life Sciences Ontario
- And the hundreds of companies across Ontario that we work with and support

**Provincial Partners**
- Ministry of Research and Innovation
- Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Government Services
- Office of Small and Medium Enterprises
- Office of Children and Youth Services
- Southern Ontario Smart Computing Innovation Platform
- Compute Ontario

**Private Investors**
- OMERS Ventures
- HIGHLINE
- China Canada Innovation Park
- HanHai Investment
- National Angel Capital Organization
- INcubes
- Keiretsu
- Business Development Bank of Canada
- Canada’s Venture Capital & Private Equity Association (CVCA)

**Federal Partners**
- FedDev
- FedNor
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- Industrial Research Assistance Program
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

**Interprovincial**
- CQDM
- Alberta Innovates Technology Futures

**Innovation Intermediaries**
- Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE)
- Regional Innovation Centres*
- Small Business Enterprise Centres*
- Sector Innovation Centres*
- MaRS*
- oneeleven
- Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster*
- Futurpreneur Canada

* Members of ONE
Measuring Success

OCE drives the commercialization of cutting-edge research across key market sectors to build the economy of tomorrow and secure Ontario’s global competitiveness. In so doing, we help develop the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs and are a key partner with Ontario’s industry, universities, colleges, research hospitals, investors and government.

$30.7 million was invested by OCE. OCE managed 624 active research, commercialization and talent projects

Return on Innovation 2013/14

$27.5 million

Incremental company sales as a direct result of OCE-funded projects

3,315 JOBS

Created or sustained in industry that can be directly attributed to OCE-funded projects, the highest in OCE history and a 29 per cent increase over last year

$68.9 million

leveraged in investment from industry and other partners

33% ICT and Digital Media

30% Advanced Health Technologies

16% Energy and Environment

21% Advanced Manufacturing

Percentage of OCE projects by sector

Leverage ratio, compared to an historical average of 1.5

2.5

Follow-on investment primarily from angel investors and venture capitalists, the highest in OCE history and almost double that of last year’s $77 million.

$145.8 million
Here we see the Return-on-Innovation outcomes OCE has achieved as a result of Ontario government-provided funding combined with co-investments from the federal government, industry and other partners.

$68.9M in funding leveraged from OCE’s initial program investment of $27.5M for a combined total of $96.4M being invested in the innovation ecosystem.

**Costs Declining**

Over the past four years, OCE has seen its costs for delivering programs as a percentage of total funding decrease as a result of the introduction of efficiency and streamlining measures.

**PROGRAM GROWTH INSPIRES EFFICIENCY MEASURES**

OCE is projecting that it will review close to 1,000 funding applications in 2014-15 as a result of an increase in program funding. This represents a three-fold increase over three years ago. The associated growth in OCE investments will significantly increase economic outcomes in years to come.

We have taken new steps to streamline and expedite the time it takes to turn around an application for innovation funding by up to 50 per cent. This includes the creation of a College of Reviewers made up of sector experts from industry and academia to expedite review and approval of applications to core high-volume programs.

“We are excited by the new program and partnership opportunities that have come our way and we are committed to continuously improving our program delivery model to ensure it is highly efficient in meeting the needs of our clients and represents best practices in fairness and transparency when deploying public funds.”

— Narinder Dehal, OCE’s Vice President, Finance, Programs and Administration
1. Driving Innovation

- Creating an efficient marketplace for companies and entrepreneurs to access services from research institutions
- Helping move promising technologies from the research lab to the marketplace
- Aligning research institutions with the needs of industry

**OUR DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING**

**TalentEdge**

Launched this year to provide students with experiential learning opportunities and industry with access to highly qualified and skilled talent.

Interns and postdoctoral fellows can apply their skills and expertise, leading-edge knowledge and tools to solve real-world industry problems.

More than 122 internships and fellowships were filled by the end of the summer.

**Collaboration Voucher Program**

Launched this year to stimulate interactions between academic institutions and SMEs that go beyond traditional research and technology development collaborations.

Addresses productivity and innovative challenges, assists with commercialization, provides e-business solutions and tackles sector-wide problems.

By end of fiscal 2013-14, more than 240 Collaboration Voucher Program projects had been approved and were underway.

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"OCE’s success in driving innovation relies heavily on staff relationships and knowledge. We need employees with both specialized expertise and leading-edge knowledge. To recruit and retain a workforce that can deliver on OCE’s ambitious goals, we must aggressively compete in the employment market for the most talented resources. This means developing incentives for attracting and engaging top talent, creating a healthy workplace and providing leadership and organizational development."

— Sharon Jobity, OCE’s Vice President, Human Resources and Talent Acquisition

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"This is a critical time to ensure that innovation continues to play a very important part to ensure that Ontario becomes a global leader in economic growth."

— Hon. Brad Duguid, Ontario’s Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure
2. Building Capital and De-risking Business

- Aggregating capital and de-risking early-stage investment opportunities for private investors
- Helping to make high potential start-ups investor- and customer-ready
- Working with government funders, angel investors and VCs, and forging strategic industry partnerships to help build and grow companies

OCE has a strong record in de-risking innovation. This helps attract private investors and other funders to new ventures, providing a good return for taxpayers. Many small- and medium-sized companies typically overlooked by traditional investors have achieved market success through OCE support.

OCE occupies a unique and critical spot in the commercialization continuum helping bridge the funding gap between government-funded R&D and private investment, and helping companies complete the hard-fought journey from technology and product development through to commercial viability, scalability and market entry.
3. Connecting the Dots

We connect industry, academia and government to accelerate commercialization, technology transfer and the development of highly qualified people.

Our feet-on-the-ground approach

- providing expert advice and guidance to clients through a 40-person team of Business Development (BD) experts deployed regionally in nine strategic locations across the province
- giving access to a broad and deep network of industry and academic partners
- leveraging our networks to connect potential collaborators and create projects

"With our significant program growth this year, our business development team has faced enormous challenges. They demonstrated amazing commitment to our clients in working long hours to manage escalating demands and to acquire knowledge about the new opportunities and support that can benefit their companies. This dedicated team brings rare and valuable skills to the organization including the ability to work effectively with both industry and academia and bridge those two distinct worlds to drive innovation."

– Bob Civak, OCE’s Senior Vice President, Business Development and Commercialization

THE ULTIMATE NETWORKING EXPERIENCE

OCE’s annual Discovery conference is the ultimate networking experience, creating an opportunity for industry, academia, entrepreneurs, investors, government and students to connect and do business. This year saw the largest number of attendees to date, an increase of 24 per cent in exhibitors and our largest-ever international delegation. Ninety-six per cent of survey respondents rated this year’s Discovery as good to excellent.

"One conference attendee told us he had more contact with high-tech company clients in those two days at Discovery than he would in four months otherwise. This is exactly the experience we are working to create. Discovery opens doors to new opportunities and new ideas. It’s where all the players in the province’s innovation ecosystem converge to do business and explore new partnerships."

– Anne Wettlaufer, OCE’s Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs
4. Trusted Partner

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

This year, OCE established a first-of-its-kind whole-of-government approach that provides companies with a single entry point to access provincial and federal funding.

We leverage provincial and federal funding to increase program impact and minimize duplication. Federal partners Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), Connect Canada and Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) partnered with OCE to create a single portal on the OCE website to access their programs.

“These are the kinds of strategic partnerships we envisioned when we created the Ontario-Quebec Life Sciences corridor. Developing innovative new technologies in this field will result in positive economic outcomes for both provinces.”

– Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

“As an export-focused economy like Ontario’s, Alberta knows our success at home often means success for our partners across Canada. With a shared focus on innovation and a goal to enhance our ability to commercialize research, our two provinces can better compete locally, globally and build a stronger Canada.”

– Hon. Dave Hancock, Premier of Alberta

Our whole-of-government approach extends to forging interprovincial partnerships that boost innovation and stimulate job creation.

Jointly announced on April 9, 2014 by the Governments of Ontario and Alberta, the Alberta-Ontario Innovation Program is bringing industry and academia together to develop research projects with a strong economic focus. This cross-provincial collaboration will address challenges in both Ontario and Alberta that can be tackled through joint research and development.

Ontario Centres of Excellence is building on its partnership with Quebec-based CQDM by bringing additional funding to a novel program dedicated to breakthrough technologies that accelerate drug discovery and development. This is the continuation of the work we have been doing with CQDM in the Ontario-Quebec Life Sciences Corridor.
SUCCESS STORY
Information, Communications and Digital Media/Energy and Environment

CLEAR BLUE TECHNOLOGIES

RETURN ON INNOVATION
- Currently employs 13 full-time people
- Projects hiring another 20 by 2017
- OCE Investment: $310,000

THE CHALLENGE
Up to 80 per cent of the capital cost for installing devices like street lighting, security cameras and pipeline sensors is dedicated to digging trenches deep in the ground, running vast amounts of cable, and then filling the holes back up again. Also challenging is that many devices are situated in remote, hard-to-access locations and require relatively expensive labour to maintain.

THE BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY
Toronto-based Clear Blue Technologies has developed a solution that weds the power of clean energy – through solar panels and a wind turbine – with cloud software technology to wirelessly deliver highly reliable off-grid power and independence to devices like streetlights, traffic cameras and mobile signage. The company’s software provides real-time monitoring and control from the web, significantly reducing maintenance costs.

HOW OCE HELPED – The Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation (CONII), now part of OCE, initially supported collaborations between Clear Blue Technologies and two local colleges, Centennial and George Brown, to develop a prototype and conduct in-field testing. OCE then stepped in with a First Job award followed by Market Readiness support to conduct market research and establish distributor relationships. Clear Blue is now engaged in a second Market Readiness project to help with global channel development and product commercialization. The company is currently in talks with angel investors.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW
Since the launch of their product last year, Clear Blue Technologies has secured 50 customers in Canada, US, Germany, Dubai and Australia. The company has just released a new patented version of its technology.
RETURN ON INNOVATION

- Currently employs three full-time people
- Projects hiring 10 in the next year
- Estimates the creation of 50 jobs in the next 3-5 years
- OCE Investment: $25,000

THE CHALLENGE

Demand for quinoa has increased fivefold over the last ten years due to its gluten-free status, high nutritional profile, and popularity with various natural food trends. Most of the world’s supply currently comes from Bolivia and Peru. With high demand comes increasing pressure to process quinoa quickly, often resulting in variable product quality and purity.

THE BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Guelph-area company Katan Kitchens is set to produce the highest-quality quinoa in the world, right here in Ontario. The company, in partnership with the University of Guelph, has been working on developing several quinoa varieties conducive to Ontario’s climate and soil conditions. Field trials have yielded positive results, with most parameters measuring as good as, if not better, than commercially available varieties.

HOW OCE HELPED – In 2013, OCE supported Katan Kitchens with a Voucher for Innovation and Productivity (VIP) to help determine the ideal range of soil phosphorous levels needed to harvest crops with the highest nutritional content. The company is looking to engage in another VIP looking at potassium levels. Results from these studies will guide Ontarian farmers on how best to optimize quinoa production for the highest nutritional content.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW

Katan Kitchens is currently working on raising capital to the tune of $3.5 million to build a processing facility in northern Ontario for harvest of the 2015 crop. Their product, named QuinTa, will be available by late 2015/early 2016. More than 100 farmers in Ontario have already expressed interest in growing quinoa.
The Challenge
Cybercrime cost the Canadian economy $3.2 billion last year alone. Cyber-attacks affect millions of people, have the potential to financially cripple companies, and are becoming increasingly sophisticated. The explosion in popularity of mobile devices like tablets and smartphones in the cloud computing space presents one of the greatest risks to cybersecurity today. Current solutions are costly and unreliable.

The Breakthrough Technology
Ottawa-based start-up inBay Technologies has developed a disruptive, cost effective solution that eliminates vulnerability of unprotected mobile endpoints in cloud computing. The company’s patented software creates a trusted virtual relationship between user and service provider that’s unprecedented using three types of information: PIN, smartphone identifier and unique code from a service provider.

How OCE Helped – Starting in 2012, OCE supported three early-stage collaborations between inBay and two Ontario universities – the University of Ottawa and Carleton University – to develop the company’s flagship software system. Most recently, the company completed a Voucher for Innovation and Productivity (VIP) project with Queen’s University to explore how to further scale their product. OCE’s support helped inBay create an ultra-large-scale platform which provides one of the lowest total cost of ownership solutions.

Where They Are Now
inBay Technologies has successfully landed partnerships with enterprises and financial companies in South Korea. Pilots are being planned for Canada, Japan, and the US. inBay recently launched its idQ Solution for enterprise private clouds or public clouds and is currently enhancing its ultra-large-scale deployment platform to include green computing techniques to reduce data centre energy consumption.

Return on Innovation
- Currently employs 15 people
- Projects hiring up to 100 people by 2017
- OCE Investment: $106,475
MILAO LANGUAGE

RETURN ON INNOVATION

• Currently employs eight people
• Projects hiring up to 25 people by 2017
• OCE Investment: $75,000

THE CHALLENGE  The main challenge of learning a second language is finding opportunities to practice and gain confidence communicating in a meaningful way. Most language learners never quite make it past memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules. In fact, only one in 25 adult language learners will achieve native-like fluency.

THE BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY  Waterloo start-up Milao Language has created a solution that is built on the latest language acquisition and artificial intelligence research. It allows users to engage in online “chats” with an intelligent virtual avatar, simulating real-life interactions like ordering food at a restaurant. Milao’s software analyzes the learner’s input, detects linguistic mistakes and provides instant feedback. The technology helps learners build confidence to become fluent communicators in real-life settings.

HOW OCE HELPED – OCE initially supported Milao Language through a Voucher for Commercialization (VC) to help them move from a prototype to a beta trial with over 250 language students at the University of Waterloo. OCE is currently supporting Milao with an Entrepreneurship Fellowship in partnership with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

WHERE THEY ARE NOW  With the Spanish version of their product now commercially available, Milao Language is planning to release an English version by year end. In addition to expanding their language offerings to French and Mandarin, the company plans to add voice recognition technology to their chat tool. Milao is currently engaged in talks with potential customers from universities across North America and Brazil.
THE CHALLENGE Despite the popularity of battery-powered electric bikes doubling in North America in recent years, uptake in urban centres has been slow. Current e-bike models are heavy, unattractive, not portable enough and difficult to charge, store and maintain. Consumer awareness of e-bikes as a viable green transportation alternative to increasing costs of gas, parking and congestion is low.

THE BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY Toronto-based start-up Revelo Electric is changing all that. The company has created the world’s lightest, design-savvy street legal e-bike, the LE-1, which is compact, chainless and ergonomic. The bike is powered by a lightweight removable lithium battery, folds easily and is virtually maintenance-free. It features a patent-pending dual-mode chainless front wheel pedaling mechanism that is unlike anything on the market. A single charge lasts 30 kilometres.

HOW OCE HELPED – OCE initially supported Revelo Electric’s partnership with OCAD University through our Market Readiness program which helped the company create a prototype, perform engineering tests and develop marketing materials. A phase two Market Readiness followed, focusing on product development, user verification and establishing a supply chain.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW Revelo officially launched the LE-1 at OCE’s 2014 Discovery conference. Since then, the company has been selling their handmade e-bikes to customers across Canada and sourcing new manufacturing suppliers to become more cost competitive. Revelo is well positioned to sell in global markets, like China, where e-bikes occupy the majority of the world market. The company is also designing a new model e-bike with a complementary storage system and accessories line.

OCE Investment: $143,000
SUCCESSTORY
Energy and Environment

PIZZA PIZZA

RETURN ON INNOVATION
• Seven graduate students, twelve undergraduate students, and one postdoctoral fellow worked on project over two years
• OCE Investment: $189,544

The Challenge
Commercial pizza ovens are notoriously energy inefficient. A typical pizza restaurant requires a constant supply of natural gas to keep up to seven ovens operating at a baking temperature of 500°C during operating hours and 260°C overnight to be ready in order to cook in the morning. Most energy used to power the ovens is lost through the chimney.

The Breakthrough Technology
Canada’s largest pizza chain, Pizza Pizza, has teamed up with McMaster University and heat exchange manufacturers Thermal Electronics Corporation and Acrolab to develop a low-cost system that efficiently recovers waste heat from pizza ovens and converts it to electricity. The electricity can then be used in store to meet hot water, heating or cooling needs. The device sets a new standard in energy conservation and offers resiliency in the event of a power outage.

How OCE Helped
OCE supported the partnership through the Collaborative Research program, which enabled McMaster to simulate, design, fabricate and test the device on a pizza oven donated by Pizza Pizza in their lab and conduct extensive energy monitoring at Pizza Pizza’s Dundas, Ontario location.

Where They Are Now
The project partners are about to move to phase two of the project, which will investigate uses for the abundance of clean, hot water produced as a by-product of the electricity generation system. The system is also being integrated into three more restaurants. Once a cost-effective, reliable product is manufactured, Pizza Pizza will be able to deploy the system in up to 400 of their restaurants across Canada.

(From left) OCE Business Development Manager Thomas Gehring, McMaster University PhD student Rafat Hirmiz, Pizza Pizza President and CEO Paul Goddard (centre), Associate Director of the McMaster Institute of Energy Studies Dr. James Cotton, and OCE Regional Director John MacRitchie (far right) on-site at Pizza Pizza’s Dundas, Ontario location.
The Challenge
One in eight Canadians gets sick each year from eating food contaminated by pathogens like Salmonella, E. coli or Listeria. Maintaining a sanitary environment in food production facilities is paramount, especially on floors that are a constant source of cross-contamination. Current antimicrobial floor coatings only target specific bacteria, and can be toxic, expensive and eventually lose effectiveness.

The Breakthrough Technology
London-based start-up SunWash Technologies, in partnership with Western University, has developed a self-cleaning floor coating that breaks down any organic or biological matter on the surface when exposed to light. The stronger the light, the more effective the cleaning process. While it doesn’t remove the need for cleaning completely, the coating is non-toxic, permanent and effective against all pathogens and chemical pollutants. This translates to cost, energy and human resource savings.

How OCE Helped – OCE first supported SunWash Technologies through the Market Readiness program to develop the product, initiate trials at a major Ontario vegetable producer and establish a contract manufacturing process. A Voucher for Innovation and Productivity (VIP) project to assess the effectiveness of the coating is currently underway. SunWash is hoping to participate in a second Market Readiness to craft a marketing and sales plan.

Where They Are Now
SunWash is poised to launch their product into the marketplace this fall and begin negotiations with applicator companies for North American distribution. Once revenues are generated, they hope to bring manufacturing in-house and extend the use of their patented coating to health care, military and other industrial applications.

Success Story
Advanced Manufacturing

Return on Innovation
- Currently employs four people, one full-time
- Projects hiring up to 10 people in the next 3-5 years
- OCE Investment: $145,000

(From left) SunWash Technologies founder and COO Patrick Therrien, with Professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at Western University Dr. Paul Charpentier, and OCE Business Development Manager Alison Empey (seated) at SunWash Technologies’ lab in the Stiller Centre for Technology Commercialization at Western University.
OCE 13/14 | ANNUAL REPORT

SUCCESS STORY
Advanced Health

OCE 13/14 | ANNUAL REPORT

OCE 13/14 | ANNUAL REPORT

HANDYMETRICS

The Challenge
One in every 20 patients who visit a hospital in North America will contract a hospital-acquired infection (HAI) like C. difficile (C. diff) or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The best way to prevent the spread of HAIs is through proper hand hygiene by health-care professionals. Monitoring compliance in hospitals is critical with current auditing systems cumbersome, slow and prone to human error.

The Breakthrough Technology
Toronto startup HandyMetrics, in collaboration with the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI), has created an app called HandyAudit that helps hand hygiene monitors record and report data objectively, consistently and accurately. Academically and clinically validated, the tool allows for a deep, evidence-based understanding of hand hygiene practices that enables hospitals to lower costs, increase compliance rates and ultimately improve the quality of patient care.

How OCE Helped
Through our initial support of HandyMetrics through OCE’s Market Readiness program, we helped transition the company’s technology to an iPhone and Android platform allowing it to be flexible and scalable. A second Market Readiness project helped them create an automated training and support system. Additional support from CDMM, NRC-IRAP, ventureLAB and MEDEC followed. HandyMetrics is currently looking to participate in OCE’s popular TalentEdge program.

Where They Are Now
More than 100 hospital sites in Canada and abroad, including the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Children’s National in Washington, DC, are using HandyAudit. The company is in talks with prospective clients in the UK and Italy and working to create a more basic version of their tool to penetrate a larger market share.

RETURN ON INNOVATION
• Currently employs seven full-time people
• Projects hiring up to 15 people by 2017
• OCE Investment: $99,950

(From left) Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI) Scientist Dr. Cesar Marquez Chin and founder and Managing Director of HandyMetrics Corporation Michael Tsang, together with TRI Institute Director Dr. Geoff Fernie and OCE Business Development Manager Jose Costa (far right), in front of the largest rehabilitation hospital in Canada.
Driving Youth Entrepreneurship

OUR EXPANDED PORTFOLIO OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS

Building on the success of the former Experiential Learning Program, Ontario Centres of Excellence with the Ministry of Research and Innovation is now providing support across the spectrum of youth entrepreneurship: direct fellowship support to students; seed capital funding for students and youth-led starts-ups; and commercialization and entrepreneurship infrastructure support to academic institutions.

- Campus-Linked Accelerator (CLA) program funds post-secondary institutions to create, improve and sustain a culture of entrepreneurship among students and youth in their regions.
- On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities (OCEA) program develops student entrepreneurial activity in Ontario’s universities and colleges.
- SmartStart Seed Fund provides seed financing and financing for entrepreneurship skills training to Ontario-based start-ups led by young entrepreneurs.
- David McFadden Energy Entrepreneur Challenge awards $25,000 and a suite of business services to a university or college student to help advance a business concept in the energy field.
- Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technological Entrepreneurship helps move OCE-funded university-based research into innovative business ventures.
- Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch competition for high school students awards six winners access to business training and support to make their business ideas a reality.
- OCE-Futurpreneur Canada* provides assistance for entrepreneurs aged 18-39 while developing businesses around research originating in Ontario’s colleges and universities.

* Futurpreneur Canada, formerly Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF)

"It is extremely rewarding to work with bright and passionate young people who have both eureka ideas and the drive to turn their discoveries into tangible products and services. We welcome the opportunity to support young entrepreneurs and their early-stage projects where there is clear potential for success."

– Dr. Tom Corr, OCE’s President and CEO
Building regional entrepreneurship ecosystems

CAMPUS-LINKED ACCELERATORS

OCE manages the $20-million Campus-Linked Accelerator program, announced by the province in 2013. Ten CLAs representing various regions across the province work with the Regional Innovation Centres and other partners in the innovation system to create, improve and sustain a culture of entrepreneurship among students and youth and connect them with investors and industry.

ON-CAMPUS ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACTIVITIES

Through the $5-million OCEA program, we are providing experiential learning opportunities for the next generation of innovators, helping student entrepreneurs transfer knowledge and intellectual property from Ontario post-secondary research institutions to the marketplace.

Fostering the entrepreneurial spirit among students is a key component of Ontario’s Youth Jobs Strategy, through programs that help transfer their ideas and skills to the marketplace while creating rewarding careers. By partnering with colleges and universities to support entrepreneurship, we are ensuring our province’s business leaders of tomorrow are getting the support they need to succeed today.”

– Dr. Reza Moridi, Ontario’s Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Minister of Research and Innovation
Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch

High School Competition

ANDREW WILLIAMS
Sandwich Secondary School, LaSalle, Ontario, Grade 11
Poseidon Pool Care, a pool cleaning company run by two high school students experienced in pool cleaning and maintenance.

RABIYA SIDDQUI
Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School, London, Ontario, Grade 11
Doodle School, an online community that helps people learn to draw through online tutorials uploaded by the community, an artwork gallery where users can upload their own work for others to view, and an online store where users can sell their artwork for a small fee to the website.

KALEB SAUVE
Lasalle Secondary School, Sudbury, Ontario, Grade 11
Vision3D offers constructing and customizing spaces in a 3D environment for customers looking at interior renovations or landscape upgrades. The service will allow customers to visualize how their renovations will appear when completed. The 3D renderings are formatted to be exact replicas of the property or space the customer is renovating.

BRENDAN MARENTETTE
A.Y. Jackson Secondary School, Kanata, Ontario, Grade 11
Auricle Project, a mobile application for Android and iOS that utilizes Google Glass and speech recognition technologies to allow someone with hearing loss to understand what people around them are saying without the use of sign language.

JOSHUA KARBI
Forest Hill Collegiate Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Grade 9
NotesShare, a website for high school students to post and get classroom notes.

NATHAN PEREGRINE
Lasalle Secondary School, Sudbury, Ontario, Grade 12
The Food Plan aims to eliminate hunger and food waste in Sudbury and one day all of Ontario by collecting leftover perishable food from different dining services in the community and getting the food supplies to people in need through organizations such as the Elgin Street Mission.

The six winners of the Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch contest chosen from 19 finalists who presented their ideas in front of a judging panel at OCE’s Discovery this year:
Entrepreneurship Fellowship
Helping youth build businesses

SET SCOUTER
Scouting the ideal film location
With Set Scouter you can earn cash and have your kitchen featured in a TV commercial for some of the hottest brands. Set Scouter is a film location scouting marketplace that connects filmmakers looking for the perfect set with property owners looking to rent out their space for production. Based out of the Digital Media Zone at Ryerson University, Set Scouter aims to make the location scouting process faster, easier and more affordable. Set Scouter’s founder and CEO Alex Kolodkin received a two-year OCE-Futurpreneur Canada Entrepreneurship Fellowship in 2014, which has helped the company validate product-market fit and develop its platform.

ROI:
• Helped Canadian pop-rock band Hedley secure the perfect location for their award-winning music video in under 48 hours, after their production company had searched for a week
• Set Scouter’s locations have been featured in productions for RBC, Telus, Manchu Wok, Business News Network, Samsung and more

TRIVIUM INDUSTRIES
Not a trivial pursuit
Trivium Industries is tackling the environmental scourge of plastic packaging waste with its compostable bottles for the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries. The bottles are made from PLA, a corn-based material, and contents are protected by a patented barrier coating developed at Brock University by Trivium’s co-founder and President, David D’Angelo. With the same shelf life and appearance as regular plastic containers, Trivium’s bottles biodegrade at commercial composting facilities in fewer than 180 days. D’Angelo received a two-year OCE-Futurpreneur Canada Entrepreneurship Fellowship in 2014 to help commercialize his technology, which helped Trivium begin full production of its PLA bottles in September 2014.

ROI:
• Trivium is the first manufacturer of PLA bottles in Canada
• Company has established relationships with future customers and distributors
• Currently has three full-time employees, with plans to hire two more

SmartStart Seed Fund to take companies to the next level

REMOTE MANAGING OF CHILD’S MEDICAL HISTORY
Keeping a complete and up-to-date record of a child’s medical history can be a challenge for new parents, especially during the first years of life when children are treated by multiple medical professionals at various locations. Kids Health Record allows parents to take control of their child’s health and wellness by providing an analytics and health information storage platform that parents can manage on their smartphones, computers and tablets from anywhere in the world. Operating out of Ryerson University’s Digital Media Zone, Creative Director and Co-founder Kathleen Babin received support from OCE’s SmartStart Seed Fund in 2014 to further develop and commercialize the platform.
**Martin Walmsley Fellowship**

**COFOVO ENERGY**

*Two-year award winner*

Maximizing the power of solar panels

Spun out of the University of Ottawa SUNLAB, COFOVO Energy is addressing the poor heat tolerance and low efficiency of standard solar panels with its low-cost, high-concentration photovoltaic system. The system is ideal for use in hot, high-sunlight regions of the world, and is two to three times more efficient than standard solar panels but comparable in price. In 2013, COFOVO Energy’s founder and CEO Richard Beal received OCE’s two-year Martin Walmsley Fellowship worth $100,000. Since then, the company sold its first solar system, initiated a second product line, and is working on projects both domestically and internationally.

**ROI:**
- Received $134,000 of follow-on investment from IRAP
- Revenues expected to be $150,000-$500,000 over the next 12 months
- Company employs one part-time and three full-time employees, with plans to add an additional full-time member in the next six months

**GAITTRONICS**

*One-year award winner*

Speeding up patient recovery

A patient who walks just 15 minutes a day during a hospital stay recovers faster and goes home sooner at significant savings to the healthcare system. To make early mobilization therapy safer and easier, GaitTronics has developed a unique robotic patient handling device called GaitEnable. It reduces the number of staff required to mobilize a patient, prevents patient falls, and reduces caregiver injuries. Co-founder and CTO Aliasgar Morbi received OCE’s $50,000 one-year Martin Walmsley Fellowship in 2013 to help build the company, which started at Carleton University.

**ROI:**
- Company will deliver a unit to its first customer, the Ottawa Children’s Treatment Centre this fall, and is in the process of setting up pilot studies at two more Ontario sites
- Aiming to place units in the top 10 rehabilitation institutions in North America by 2016
David McFadden
Energy Entrepreneur Challenge

Awards winner

PetroPredict

Forecasting leaks

Oil and gas leaks can go undetected for years, creating a costly problem for both companies and the environment. But PetroPredict can help find them. The start-up’s software uses geological and historic production data from various sources to predict vulnerabilities in untested wells, helping decision-makers determine the risk/reward of expensive physical intervention. PetroPredict earned co-founder Dominic Toselli, a recent University of Waterloo graduate, the top prize of $25,000 in OCE’s inaugural David McFadden Energy Entrepreneur Challenge. The start-up has already garnered significant interest from investors and is currently cash-flow positive.

ROI:

- $25,000 award from OCE allowed the team to hire four co-op students
- Software is in the pilot stage with an exploration and production company
Advanced Health Technologies

BOOSTING INNOVATION IN ONTARIO’S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Launched in June 2014, AdvancingHealth is a highly targeted, inventive program that matches healthcare needs with innovative products and services through partnerships between public healthcare organizations, companies and academic institutions.

It is designed to improve health outcomes, enhance patient experience and make efficient use of resources through investments in collaborative demonstration projects that establish a strong case for adoption and show clear potential for scaling up to the system level. This farsighted program will equip Ontario with the competitive edge it needs to capture and dominate global markets.

A partnering forum this summer drew 180 health officials and health technology companies. 43 EOI’s have been received with 10 invited to submit full proposals.
MEDICAL SCIENCES PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE (MSc PoP)
Commercializing promising advanced health technology

The Medical Sciences Proof-of-Principle program provides funding to commercialize intellectual property developed at Ontario publicly funded academic research institutions.

More than 50 projects were approved in the last year, including:

- Automated detection of bioactive small molecules from natural sources
- Better prediction of cardio-toxicity and cardiac failure
- Local early warning system for global infectious diseases
- Microfluidic device for improved sperm selection for assisted reproduction
- Non-invasive diagnosis and characterization of breast cancer using quantitative ultrasound techniques
- Novel dry coating for pharmaceutical tablets
- Thermal therapy garment for heart failure and hypertension patients
- Ultrasound navigation for spinal fusion surgery

Advanced Manufacturing

LIFTOFF FOR EXCITING NEW R&D AEROSPACE PARTNERSHIP

Ontario Centres of Excellence has joined with the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, Ontario Aerospace Council (OAC) and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to support collaborative research and technology development projects by Ontario industry and academic research partners through OCE’s Voucher for Industry Association R&D Challenge program. The $2.5-million program supports areas of technology that are strategically important to the Ontario aerospace sector.

SOME PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Improving accuracy of greenhouse gas measurement

Canada continues to seek new technologies to help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and produce new energy efficiencies. Researchers at the University of Toronto’s Space Flight Laboratory are collaborating with Sinclair Interplanetary, a Toronto-based supplier of hardware, software, training and expertise to the spacecraft community to develop accurate and precise tracking technology for use in commercial miniature satellites owned by GHGSat Inc. for space-based monitoring of GHG emissions from industrial facilities. Once validated, these nanosatellites would make it financially feasible and commercially viable to provide these GHG monitoring services internationally.

Converting to more reliable and greener aircraft

The design of aircraft electrical systems is key to issues of efficiency, cost-effectiveness, public safety and environmental impact. Researchers in the Dept. of Electrical and Computing Engineering at Ryerson University have teamed with Honeywell Aerospace to address thermal management issues associated with electrical power conversion. Their next generation of aerospace power converters will lead to a reduction in aircraft equipment weight, improved equipment reliability and a greener, more efficient and safer aircraft.

COLLABORATING TO COMMERCIALIZE GROUNDBREAKING PRODUCTS FOR A GLOBAL MARKET

OCE and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters launched a $2-million Made in Ontario Advanced Manufacturing R&D Challenge in collaboration with NSERC, to generate partnerships between academic researchers and industry that commercialize groundbreaking products and processes for global markets and produce economic benefits for Ontario.
Information, Communications and Digital Media

Creating a Hothouse of Innovation for Big Data Enterprises

Co-founded in 2013 through strategic investments by OMERS Ventures, Ontario Centres of Excellence and Ryerson University, oneleven is Canada’s first accelerator created to address the needs of successful, visionary entrepreneurs pursuing data-driven opportunities which will benefit from access to the power of high performance computing.

There are already 15 data-driven companies that are part of the accelerator.

More than 900 developers participated in a 48-hour hackathon event with oneleven serving as the Toronto host. The result was Canada’s largest competitive hackathon using open data, the Canadian Open Data Experience (CODE) and the event produced an impressive 110 apps.

High Performance Computing

Celebrating its second anniversary this year, the Southern Ontario Smart Computing Innovation Platform (SOSCIP) is expanding to include four additional universities (Wilfrid Laurier, York, Ryerson and Carleton) and four new research focus areas: digital media, mining, advanced manufacturing and cyber security.

OCE is a key contributor to SOSCIP through its HPC program, which provides access to supercomputer technology for small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Some OCE-Supported Projects

Sciencescape

Each day, Sciencescape streams thousands of breaking research papers to scientists, clinicians, educators, and students around the world so they can incorporate new ideas, findings, methods and technologies into their work. Using the Southern Ontario Smart Computing Innovation Platform (SOSCIP) systems, Sciencescape is able to analyze more than 25 million papers and make recommendations based on state-of-the-art machine learning and natural language processing algorithms.

Analytics for Life

Analytics for Life (A4L) is developing and applying sophisticated analytics approaches to extract and process previously difficult-to-detect information from a variety of different biological signals. The first application of the company’s analytics platform is in the healthcare space with a focus on cardiology. Through SOSCIP, A4L has been able to set up controlled signal collections spanning two weeks and mathematically extract and transform this data for machine learning purposes.
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GETTING SMART ABOUT WATER

OCE has been spearheading development of environmental and clean water technologies for more than 25 years, and is now at the forefront of smart drinking water research. We work with leading water systems experts from across the province to identify the challenges and how R&D can propel innovative new technologies.

SOME OCE-SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Water Technologies for Liveable Cities

In 2013, OCE and NSERC approved a Waterloo-based collaborative industry-academic project to explore a new technology that would largely do away with lengthy service interruptions to residents, traffic gridlock and cost overruns by reducing the number of trenches needed during pipe restoration work. The City of Waterloo, with researchers at the University of Waterloo, will be testing the Tomahawk Mark 1 technology developed by Bracebridge-based company Envirologics. The low-cost, efficient energy system operates without water or chemicals, causes no damage to pipes and avoids fouling fresh water supplies.

Improving Operational Efficiency through Real-Time Monitoring

In Ontario and globally, reducing water loss and saving energy by increasing operational efficiency are common goals for municipalities. Eramosa Engineering Inc., the City of Guelph and University of Waterloo have partnered to develop a real-time monitoring and simulation platform that includes a network of sensors installed on the water distribution system to collect pressure caused vibration data. Combined with the city’s existing models, this will provide new insight into the status and performance of water distribution infrastructure from treatment plant to customers, helping identify problem areas and leakages.

POWER TO GAS

Gaining access to energy when it’s needed requires an energy system that can both incorporate and store energy from renewable sources, which are intermittent and variable, and store surplus energy generation from nuclear sources when demand is low at night. OCE has partnered with NSERC to fund innovative projects across Ontario that leverage the existing natural gas infrastructure to improve the reliability of the electricity grid and, ultimately, further the integration of Ontario’s natural gas and electricity infrastructure.

SOME OCE-SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Optimizing Gas Power Conversion

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology is working with companies Veridian Connections and Hydrogenics to design and build the modeling framework for an Integrated Ontario Energy Model. The use of gas and electricity varies by region as does the generation and distribution infrastructure. A model that integrates gas and electricity demand on a regional scale provides a much clearer picture for optimizing the deployment of power-to-gas installations. Results will be verified against historical data and used to predict 2014-2015 Ontario energy demand for both gas and electricity.

Adaptive Energy Ecosystems

An OCE-supported multi-partner project that includes Enbridge Gas, Union Gas, Hydrogenics, Energy Technology and Innovations Canada, GE Digital and the University of Waterloo are modeling natural gas, electricity and seasonal storage infrastructure in Ontario to develop a tool for determining the best location and size of power-to-gas energy hubs.
Canada’s leading innovation-to-commercialization conference, showcasing leading-edge technologies, best practices and research in Ontario.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 27-28
2015
Metro Toronto Convention Centre

ectediscovery.com
oCE/CQDM Life Sciences – OCE and CQDM team up with Life Sciences Ontario and Biopolis Québec to advance pharmaceutical research in the two provinces.

Connecting Talent and Jobs in the Energy Industry – More than 170 students and recent graduates signed up for OCE’s webinar aimed at helping them understand current and emerging career opportunities in Ontario’s evolving energy sector.

Aerospace – OCE, in conjunction with the Ontario Aerospace Council and the NSERC, hosts a forum to bring together key players in the aerospace sector for a discussion on research and development challenges and opportunities within the sector.

oneleven – Ontario Centres of Excellence, OMERS Ventures and Ryerson University launch oneleven, Canada’s first community for data-driven entrepreneurs.

“Made in Ontario” Advanced Manufacturing R&D Challenges Forum – More than 160 representatives from Ontario’s manufacturing sector and academia come together to learn about an exciting $2-million R&D funding opportunity offered through Ontario’s new Collaboration Voucher Program.

HanHai/OCE Signing – OCE and HanHai agree to lead the establishment of a China-Canada enterprises innovation centre, including a Sino-Canadian scientific and innovation collaboration and exchange platform to develop an Ontario-China network of entrepreneurs and investors.
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<th>Company</th>
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<td>360pi</td>
<td>2013 IBM Beacon Award for Best Industry Solution for Retail</td>
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<td>2013 Exploriem Gold Award for Innovation in Technology and Engineering</td>
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<td>2013 Top Global 100 Companies Award, Red Herring</td>
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<td>2014 Employees Choice Awards, <em>Ottawa Business Journal</em> (OJB) and Ottawa Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Aeryon Labs</td>
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<td>Bionym</td>
<td>2014 Breakthrough Prototype and Overall Winner, Bluetooth Breakthrough Awards</td>
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<td>2014 Best International Start-Up, Wearable Technology Conference and Expo</td>
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<td>2014 SXSW Wearable Tech Award final</td>
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<td>2013 People’s Choice, Internet of Things Awards</td>
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<td>2013 Accelerator Graduate of the Year finalist, Canadian Startup Awards</td>
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<td>Blindside Networks</td>
<td>2013 Bossie Award – Best open source applications for 2013, InfoWorld’s Bossie (Best of Open Source Software) Awards</td>
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<td>BlRX Technologies</td>
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<td>BrainFX</td>
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<td>BTI Photonics Systems Inc.</td>
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<td>Buffer Box</td>
<td>2014 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce – Mike McCauley</td>
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<td>Cast ConneX</td>
<td>Engineering Medal – Entrepreneurship, Professional Engineers of Ontario Engineering</td>
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<td>C-COM Satellite Systems</td>
<td>2013 Ontario Going Global Award finalist, Ontario Business Achievement Awards</td>
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<td>2013 PROFIT 500 list of Canada’s fastest growing companies</td>
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<td>Centreline</td>
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<td>Certo Labs</td>
<td>Mitacs &amp; NRC-IRAP Award for Commercialization – Adam Methenel, Fellowship with Certo Labs</td>
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<td>Chematria</td>
<td>2013 OCE ELP Finalist</td>
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<td>Chide.it (Fluidware)</td>
<td>2013 OCE Mind to Market Award</td>
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<td>Clear Blue Technologies</td>
<td>Honoured as technology enabler, Gold Award for the Energy category in the 2014 Connected World Awards</td>
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<td>Clearpath Robotics Inc.</td>
<td>2014 Edison Award finalist – Industrial Design</td>
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<td>2014 Silver Stevie Award – Company of the Year (Manufacturing), International Business Awards</td>
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<td>2013 Unmanned Systems Canada Organizational Award</td>
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<td>2013 EY Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award – Matt Rendall</td>
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<td>2013 Game Changer Award – Industrial Productivity, <em>Robotics Business Review</em></td>
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<td>2013 Gold Stevie Award – Best New Product or Service of the Year, International Business Awards</td>
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<td>2013 Silver Edison Award Winner, Innovative Products and Services</td>
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<td>2013 OCE Mind to Market Award, finalist</td>
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<td>GreenCentre Canada Grant</td>
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<td>Scientists and Engineers in Business Grant, Carleton University GlobalStart Program</td>
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<td>2014 Best in Show, uOttawa’s The Game event</td>
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<td>DVS Sciences</td>
<td>2014 Emerging Life Sciences Company of the Year Award, Life Sciences Ontario</td>
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<td>EcoPlace Organics</td>
<td>2013 National Nicol Entrepreneur Award – Emily Peat</td>
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<tr>
<td>EnerMotion</td>
<td>2013 Top Energy Invention Award, <em>Popular Science</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exocortex</td>
<td>2013 Bootstrap Capital Innovation, runner-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GaN Systems Inc.</td>
<td>2013 Lifetime Achievement Award – John Roberts, Information Technology Association of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 New Company of the Year finalist, Elektra European Electronics Industry Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giatec Scientific Inc.</td>
<td>2013 Riolinfo Innovation Competition Winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groupnotes</td>
<td>“Start-up to Watch” by Invest Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gShift</td>
<td>2013 OCE Experiential Learning Program Competition winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrogenics</td>
<td>2013 Technology Green 15 Award, Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Innovator of the Year Award, HFC 2013</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Excellence in the Field of Environmental Technology Commercialization and best in class at CleanEquity Monaco 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligent Mechatronic Systems (IMS)</td>
<td>2013 Top Employer Award, University of Waterloo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2014 CIO Review’s Top 20 Most Promising Automotive Tech Solution Providers</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Named a global telematics service provider leader for insurance telematics by Ptolemus Consulting Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>InteraXon</td>
<td>2013 and 2014 International CES Innovations Design and Engineering Award-Tech For A Better World</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Startup of the Year finalist, Canadian Startup Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>InVivo Communications</td>
<td>2013 Communicator Awards – Award of Distinction Award of Excellence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Award of Merit, Web Health Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Telly Award, Bronze</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Salon Award of Excellence, Association of Medical Illustrators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 National Health Information Awards, Silver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2014 Communicator Awards – Award of Distinction (2), Award of Excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Web Health Award, Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Telly Award, Silver, Bronze, Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katan Kitchens</td>
<td>2013 Innovation Guelph Award, Guelph Awards of Excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kela Medical Inc.</td>
<td>2013 member of Canadian delegation at G20 Young Entrepreneur Summit in Moscow, Russia, Arjun Kumar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 EY Young Entrepreneur of the Year finalist – Arjun Kumar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ontario Centres of Excellence is proud to have worked with and supported this year’s record number of award-winning companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Awards and Recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Komodo OpenLab</td>
<td>2013 OCE Experiential Learning Program Competition winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Pioneers for Change Innovation Award, Skills for Change – Jorge Silva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumotune</td>
<td>2013 Velocity Venture Fund Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mejuri</td>
<td>2013 OCE Experiential Learning Program Competition winner</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 International Startup Festival Elevator World Tour winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milao Language</td>
<td>2013 Accelerator Centre JumpStart Program winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 CDMM’s People’s Choice Award, Accelerator Centre JumpStart Pitch Competition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 LaunchPad50K Competition, finalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miovision Technologies Inc.</td>
<td>2013 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Greater Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce – Kurtis McBride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Innovator of the Year Award, CDMM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Program – #2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Outstanding Project Management Award, TECTERRA Geomatics Showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>NerUQORe Purification</td>
<td>2013 Invest Ottawa Entrepreneurial Rising Star Honouree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Purification</td>
<td>2014 Top 20 Under 20, Youth in Motion – Adam Noble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novus Environmental</td>
<td>2013 Award of Merit, Ottawa Urban Design Awards, Algonquin College Robert C. Gillett Student Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Canadian Design-Build Award of Excellence, Algonquin College Robert C. Gillett Student Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nulogy</td>
<td>2013 CATA Innovation Through Technology Award, Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opalux</td>
<td>2013 Best Innovation runner-up, Tax Stamp Awards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Global Innovation Award, TechConnect World Summit and Innovation Showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;P Optica</td>
<td>2013 R&amp;D 100 Award</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Prism Awards final</td>
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<tr>
<td>PetroPredict</td>
<td>2014 OCE David McFadden Entrepreneur Challenge winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 OCE Elevator Pitch Competition winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Best Startup and People’s Choice, Velocity Fund Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Maclean’s Canada’s Future Leaders under 25 – Dominic Toselli</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pan IIT Global Engineering Entrepreneurship Competition Award</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Best Pitch and People’s Choice, Velocity Fund Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>PlantForm Corporation</td>
<td>2013 Richard Laferty Excellence in Writing Award, Ontario Society of Medical Technologists</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2014 Biotechnology Technician Program Industry Partner Award, Conestoga College</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2014 MaRS HealthKitch Pitch Competition winner (Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantum Dental Technologies Inc.</td>
<td>2013 “Top 50 Dental Technology Products”, Dentistry Today – The Canary System</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2014 Killam Prize – Andreas Mandelis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebellion Media</td>
<td>2013 Waterloo Area’s Top Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>REGEN Energy Inc.</td>
<td>2013 Deloitte Technology Green 15 Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMAY</td>
<td>2013 Student Entrepreneur National Champion by Enactus Canada – Nick May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Ontario Business Achievement Awards – Nick May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revelo Bikes</td>
<td>Named one of Businesswise’s 10 Canadian start-ups you should know about (2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Named one of 5 Toronto start-ups to watch in 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2013 World Elevator Tour Elevator Competition, finalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>SensiMAT Systems</td>
<td>2014 HaTech Discover Your Potential Pitch Competition winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Scouter</td>
<td>Winner, People’s Choice Award, DigiFest 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Winner, 2013 Multiplicity Power Up Sales Challenge winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>ShopLocket</td>
<td>2013 Accelerator Grad of the Year finalist, Canadian Startup Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skyline Farms</td>
<td>2013 OCE Social Enterprise Competition finalist</td>
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<td>2013 Top 30 Under 30, Ontario Hostelry Institute – Gustavo Macius</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSIMWave</td>
<td>2014 NSERC Stacie Fellowship – Prof. Zhou Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SunWash Technologies</td>
<td>2013 Venture London competition winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sylveta</td>
<td>2014 Start-up Chile DemoDay winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 Canada’s Clean50 Award – Research &amp; Development, Delta Management Group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Innovator of the Year Award, University of Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synchronicity in Motion</td>
<td>2014 Carolyn McGregor honoured as an Order of Australia member</td>
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<tr>
<td>TrendRadius</td>
<td>2014 Velocity Venture Fund Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 GTAN-START Pitch Competition winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treventis Corporation</td>
<td>2013 Seeding Drug Discovery Award, Wellcome Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan Technologies</td>
<td>2013 WEFTEC Water Environment Federation Award – Innovative Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(TrojanUV)</td>
<td>2013 The Optical Society “Enabled By Optics” contest winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyco Electronics (TE)</td>
<td>2014 Marketing Team of the Year, Tech ACE Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 Top Global Innovator, Thomson Reuters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venna Technologies</td>
<td>2014 Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASP-DAC), 10-Year Retrospective Most Influential Paper Award – Dr. Andreas Veneris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltera</td>
<td>2014 OCE Investor Pitch Competition winner</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014 GTAN-START Pitch Competition winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XYZ Interactive</td>
<td>2013 Bramham300 Top 25 Canadian Up and Coming ICT Companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013 VentureLynx Ready For Funding award</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ontario Centres of Excellence Governance

Board of Directors 2013/14

Michael J. Nobrega
Corporate Director
CHAIR OF THE BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CHAIR)

Brian Armstrong, Q.C.
Corporate Director
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VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (CHAIR)

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FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE (CHAIR)

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Partner,
Caliber Structures Limited
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FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE (CHAIR)

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Corporate Director
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HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Professor, Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry
University of Toronto
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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (CHAIR)

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President
Management Initiatives Inc.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (CHAIR)

Andrew Abouchar
Partner
Tech Capital Partners Inc.
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

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Vice-President, University Research
University of Waterloo
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Mo Elbestawi
Vice-President, Research and International Affairs
McMaster University
NOMINATING COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Hadi Mahabadi*
President and CEO
CanWin Consulting Inc.
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Dan Patterson*
President
Niagara College
FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bob Richardson
Executive Vice President,
Public Affairs
Edelman
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Caroline Somers
Co-CEO, Cassidy Bay Group
& Chair, Capital Angel Network
HR & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Tom Corr
(ex-officio)
President and CEO
Ontario Centres of Excellence

*Absent from photo

Observers
(Board of Directors)

Wendy Tilford
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure/Ministry of Research and Innovation

Bill Mantel
Assistant Deputy Minister
Research, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship Division, Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure/Ministry of Research and Innovation

George Cadete
Director, Commercialization Branch
Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure/Ministry of Research and Innovation

Executive Team

Dr. Tom Corr
President and CEO

Bob Civak
Senior Vice President, Business Development and Commercialization

Narinder Dehal
Vice President, Finance, Programs and Administration

Anne Wettlaufer
Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs

Dr. Claudia Krywiak
Vice President, Corporate Development, Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Sharon Jobity
Vice President, Human Resources and Talent Acquisition

Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc. is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD).
• The Ontario Centres of Excellence was formally established in 1987 with seven independent centres that evolved and amalgamated into Ontario Centres of Excellence Inc. (OCE), a not-for-profit organization, in 2004.
• In partnership with industry, OCE co-invests to commercialize innovation originating in the province’s colleges, universities and research hospitals.
• OCE efforts converge on four key sector areas – advanced manufacturing; advanced health technologies; energy and environment; and information, communications and digital media, including high performance computing.
• OCE deploys experienced teams of Business Development Managers to all corners of the province. We have a province-wide footprint with offices in Toronto, Mississauga, Ottawa, Waterloo, Windsor, London, Hamilton, Markham and Oshawa.
• OCE excels at attracting industry and other stakeholder funding to more than double the amount of investment made by OCE.
• Close to 80 per cent of additional investment leveraged by OCE comes from industry.
• OCE is a member of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE), Ontario’s client-focused, province-wide innovation network.
• In recent years, OCE has introduced a number of new initiatives including Collaboration Voucher Program, High Performance Computing Initiative (with IBM), Advancing Health program, oneneleven partnership, Campus-Linked Accelerators, On-Campus Entrepreneurship Activities, SmartStart Seed Fund, Ontario-Quebec Life Sciences Research Initiative, and Alberta-Ontario Innovation Program.
• Our expanded youth entrepreneurial program and talent offerings give students and recent graduates the opportunity to learn by doing and to pursue their ideas for turning ideas into companies.
• OCE has significant expertise in “de-risking” innovation. Small- and medium-sized companies typically overlooked by traditional investors have achieved market success through OCE support and subsequent financing received from angel investors and venture capitalists.
• In 2013/14, OCE invested $27.5 million and leveraged $68.9 million in further investments from industry and other partners providing leverage of over 2.5:1. OCE managed 624 active projects during the year.
• OCE provides real-world commercialization experiences for Ontario’s next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.
• OCE’s expanding network of partnerships with industry, government and academia and innovation intermediaries within the innovation ecosystem drives commercialization, knowledge mobilization and the development of highly qualified personnel. In 2013/14, 3,315 jobs were created or sustained in industry as a direct result of OCE-funded projects and 96 start-up companies were established.
• This past year, more than 65 OCE-supported companies were recognized with national or international awards.
• OCE’s annual award-winning Discovery conference, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary next year, is Canada’s premier innovation-to-commercialization event showcasing leading-edge technologies and research. Discovery’s 2012 edition was named best international large-scale conference by the International Special Events Society. Each year, Discovery attracts more than 2,600 attendees and 350 exhibitors. In 2010 and 2011 Discovery was named Canada’s best trade show at the Canadian Event Industry Star Awards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
oce-ontario.org

Ontario Centres of Excellence

Where Next Happens

Ontario Centres of Excellence is a member of
Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs

Ontario